



Michigan Association of Black Social Workers

1136 Shepard Street - Lansing, Michigan 48912

February 28, 2006

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Honorable Representative Edward Gaffney,
Chair: Health Policy Committee
S0585 House Office Building
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Testimony for House Hearing on Health Disparity Bill (House Bill 4455)

Dear Sir:

Please find attached the Health and Wellness Goals of the National Association of Black Social Workers to be entered into testimony. NABSW has long recognized the challenges that the wide disparity in Health Outcomes and access to Health care which exist between black and white citizens as well as the health challenges which exist between other minorities and the white populations.

We have developed these goals in the form of an implementation plan which our local and student chapters across the U.S. can use in cooperation with public and private agencies and groups which address health. We stand ready to assist this committee in implementing the plan which results from these hearing. At the national level we are part of the Black Health Group of the Office of Minority Health in the Department of Health and Human Services and look forward to these hearings to improve the Health Outcomes and improving access to health care for Michigan's Minorities. You can contact me at 517-484-7480 or on my cell at 517-214-1031.

Sincerely,

Willie Kweku Davis
Willie Kweku Davis, Ph.D, PRESIDENT

Affiliate Chapters

Flint • Greater Detroit • Huron Valley • Lansing • Tri-Cities

Student Chapter Affiliates

Marygrove College • Wayne County Community College District • Wayne State University • University of Michigan

Affiliation

National Association of Black Social Workers

HEALTH AND WELLNESS GOALS

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACK SOCIAL WORKERS (2003)

The Health and Wellness Task Force have identified major health issues and make recommendations for implementation including HIV/AIDS, Chronic Diseases, Substance Abuse, Psychiatric Disorders, Stress, Elder Care, and other illnesses that impact the black community and provide a model of Primary Prevention and Education linking mental, physical, and spiritual health models which have been successful in promoting good health for African American Families.

GOAL 1: Develop NABSW Policy Statement on Health and Wellness (Long Range)

A Define Health and Wellness - WHO

Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. It implies Prevention and Education and it is strength based and African Centered.

B. Link concepts of Mental Health, Physical and Spiritual Health

Example: Dual diagnosis-children, adolescence and adults

C. Develop Position Paper on HIV/AIDS

GOAL 2: Organize health resources in each community (Chapters) (Long Range)

A. Assess Health and Wellness programs within NABSW chapters (survey) and their communities

B. Access data that demonstrates the disparities in health issues (short range)

GOAL 3: Develop outreach and intervention campaigns including aggressive outreach

- A. Utilize methods of outreach outlined by the CDC and Office of Minority Health outreach documents (Long range and ongoing)
- B. Use successful models of outreach defined as Aggressive Outreach
- C. Provide Training for Project/Campaign Interventions
- D. Promote the Seven Step Plan to a Healthy Heart (Short Range)
- E. Develop Community-based High Blood Pressure and Diabetes Screening Program and pilot screening forms.
- F. Work with Anti-Stigma Mental Health Campaign
- G. Collaborate with the "Take your Loved One to the Doctor" Campaign (**Take Your Loved One for a Checkup Day – 2005**)
- H. Develop a program on Diet and Health
- I. Focus on Education- Community Health and Wellness
- J. Focus on Elderly
- K. Chronic Illness

- L. Insurance results in fragmented services
- M. Interventions with Mothers and Daughters
- N. Stress management
- O. Alternative Methods of Health Delivery

GOAL 4: Continue Alliances with other groups that promote Health in the African American Community

- A. Work with current alliances and develop an alliance with Black Churches and other entities.
- B. Promote efforts of groups that address issues such as:

Promotion of universal health care.

In the interim, expand existing coverage to parents.

Response to Medicaid Requests for Proposals under managed care

Inclusion of mental health as a billable option for Medicaid and

A more African-centered approach to substance abuse interventions: prevention and treatment programs

Expansion of limits to funding of HIV/AIDS drugs.

Increase in the number of African American in the health professions

Develop the assessment of High Blood Pressure Screening/Diabetes

Screening programs and forms,

Infant mortality,

Cardio vascular health,

Prostate cancer,

Hypertension,

Hiv education-transmission, risk reduction.

Obesity--eating disorders,

Teenage promiscuity,

Teenage substance abuse.

Depression

GOAL 5: Disseminate information and models of successful health projects to local chapters

GOAL 6: Continue Afrorobics Activity at the Annual Conference

GOAL 7: Continue hosting a health Booth and Health screening at the Annual Conference

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